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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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Q: If the Saudis chose to do so, could they acquire substitutes for US-made MERs from non-US sources? What countries might be capable of providing these substitutes? How effective would these substitute MERs likely be?

The Japanese and Israeli Air Forces are the only non-US users of the MER-200. The MER-200 is the only ejection rack compatible with the F-15.

Japan is producing MER-200s under license with McDonnell Aircraft. Any of a number of other industrial nations could produce substitutes for the MER-200, although doing so would be complicated in the absence of cooperation and licensing by McDonnell Aircraft.

Substitute MERs designed without manufacturer-supplied specifications would likely be less accurate and reliable than those produced under license. The substitutes would also have to undergo extensive flight certification testing on F-15s before they could be used in tactical missions. Nonetheless, unlicensed MERs could be made which would be adequate to deliver ordnance with reasonable accuracy.